Central Legislation on medical admissions

*64. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present there is no Central Legislation regarding medical admissions;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to frame such a law;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) There is no Central Legislation at present with regard to admissions in courses of medicines. Presently, the policy with regard to admission in medical institutions, other than those under the control of the Central Government, is determined by the respective State Governments. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has issued various directions with regard to admissions and charging of fee in the medical institutions, contained in its judgments dated 31.10.2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation case and dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education.

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31.10.2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation case, the Central Government had issued broad policy guidelines dated 14.5.2003 to the State Governments and the Universities in the matter of admission and charging of fee by the private unaided medical and dental institutions. The Central Government has also decided to frame an appropriate legislation in this regard after eliciting the views of the concerned Departments and the stakeholders.

Reproductive and Child Health Programme

†*65. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-I) is in operation;

(b) whether Government propose to extend this programme for the coming years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, for how many years it is proposed to be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme has been in operation since October, 1997, and the second phase of the programme is expected to cover the period 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Stroke due to drugs given for cold

*66. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pills and syrups for cold such as D'Cold, Vicks Action 500, Actified and Coldarin contain Phenyl-propanoamine (PPA), an ingredient that could lead to stroke; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any study has been conducted by Government on these drugs and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) has been commonly used as a nasal decongestant in cough and cold remedies in many countries including India. On the basis of a study conducted in Yale University, the PPA containing products were, withdrawn in USA in November, 2000, because of reported risk of Hemorrhagic Stroke. However, in USA, PPA was also being used in higher strengths as an appetite suppressant in dietary weight loss medications.

The matter concerning reported hemorrhagic risk of PPA was also examined in the same year by the Committee on safety of Medicines of UK and it concluded that since evidence of link between Hemorrhagic Stroke and PPA is weak, the formulations for cough and cold in low doses may continue to be sold in UK through the Pharmacies. Unlike in USA, the drug was not marketed for weight loss in UK.

Issues concerning safety of PPA were also examined in 2000-01 in India in consultation with the Experts and further by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs & Cosmetics